

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 18666 191353Z

46

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7871

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

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SUBJECT: ANOTHER COD WAR?

REF: (A) REYKJAVIK 1506; (B) LONDON 18581

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE NOVEMBER18
FINANCIAL TIMES:

"TRAWLERS TO STOP ICELAND TRIPS

THE BRITISH TRAWLING INDUSTRY IS PREPARING TO STOP
ALL NEW SAILINGS TO THE WATERS OFF ICELAND WITHIN THE
NEXT FEW DAYS.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 18666 191353Z

THE DECISION IS BEING TAKEN IN THE EXPECTATION THAT

FISHING WILL BECOME IMPOSSIBLE WHEN THE PRESENT ANGLO-ICELANDIC AGREEMENT EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 2.

ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY SOURCES, ABOUT 12,000 JOBS WILL BE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY LOST--10,000 ON HUMBERSIDE AND 2,000 AT FLEETWOOD.

A JOINT MEETING OF THE HUMBERSIDE AND FLEETWOOD COUNTY COUNCILS WILL TAKE PLACE TODAY WITH A VIEW TO MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WHICH IS NOW IN CHARGE OF THE ICELANDIC NEGOTIATIONS.

IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS FISHERIES DISPUTES, THE INDUSTRY IS UNLIKELY TO ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE NAVAL PROTECTION. NOR IS THERE ANY SIGN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD COMPLY, IF ASKED.

INDUSTRY SPOKESMEN SAID YESTERDAY THAT BY THE WEEKEND THERE WOULD BE SIMPLY NO POINT IN THE TRAWLERS SETTING OUT. THE VOYAGE TO THE FISHING GROUNDS TAKES ABOUT FOUR DAYS AND IT REQUIRES ABOUT TEN DAYS' FISHING TO MAKE A TRIP WORTHWHILE.

THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT DUE TO BEGIN UNTIL NOVEMBER 25 WHEN MR. FINN O. GUNDELACH, THE BRUSSELS COMMISSIONER AT PRESENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMUNITY'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS, GOES TO REYKJAVIK, BUT THERE IS NO HOPE THAT THIS WILL PROVE CONCLUSIVE.

THE CHANCES OF ICELAND AGREEING TO AN EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WHILE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE ARE ALSO REGARDED AS NON-EXISTENT.

SINCE THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED LAST JUNE, THE NUMBER OF TRAWLERS IN SERVICE FOR THE ICELANDIC TRIP HAS ALREADY DECLINED FROM 105 TO ABOUT 80.

THE AGREEMENT ALLOWED A MAXIMUM OF 24 TRAWLERS TO BE ON THE FISHING GROUNDS AT ANY ONE TIME.

TO MAINTAIN THAT FIGURE REQUIRES AN OVERALL FLEET OF ABOUT 50, BUT THE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN PRACTISING WORK-SHARING TO PREVENT TOO SUDDEN A RUNDOWN. THERE IS, THEREFORE, ALREADY A GOOD DEAL OF CONCEALED UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE INDUSTRY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE FIGURE OF 24 PRESERVED IN A NEW AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY BUT IN PRACTICE THIS IS MOST UNLIKELY.

IN TIME, SOME OF THE VESSELS MAY BE ABLE TO BE REDEPLOYED ELSEWHERE, BUT THIS WILL DEPEND ON UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LONDON 18666 191353Z

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S COMMON FISHERIES POLICY.

RICHARD MOONEY WRITES: THE LOSS OF THE ICELANDIC FISHERY WOULD MEAN THE U.K. WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND FOR COD SUPPLIES ON ITS OWN CATCH FROM THE NORTHEAST ARCTIC, THE FAROES, AND WATERS AROUND ITS OWN SHORES, PLUS IMPORTS. THIS WOULD CERTAINLY MEAN HIGHER PRICES. QUAYSIDE PRICE LEVELS ARE ALREADY AT THE HIGHEST

FOR SOME TIME, AT 30-35 POUNDS STERLING PER 10-STONE KIT,
AGAINST ABOUT 22 POUNDS A KIT BEFORE THE LAST COD WAR.
THE FULL EFFECTS OF THE REDUCED FISHING EFFORT ENFORCED
BY THE FINAL U.K.-ICELAND AGREEMENT ARE ONLY NOW BEING
FELT."

ARMSTRONG

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